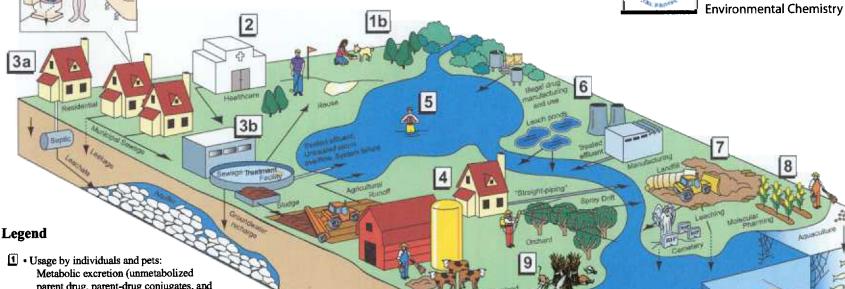
Origins and Fate of PPCPs' in the Environment

'Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development National Exposure Research Laboratory Environmental Sciences Division Environmental Chemistry Branch



Usage by individuals and pets:
 Metabolic excretion (unmetabolized parent drug, parent-drug conjugates, and bioactive metabolites); sweat and vomitus.

Excretion exacerbated by disease and slow-dissolving medications

· Disposal of unused/outdated medication to sewage systems

Underground leakage from sewage system infrastructure

Release of treated/untreated hospital wastes to domestic sewage systems
 (weighted toward acutely toxic drugs and diagnostic agents, as opposed to long-term
 medications); also disposal by pharmacies, physicians, humanitarian drug surplus

- Release to private septic/leach fields
 - Treated effluent from domestic sewage treatment plants discharged to surface waters or re-injected into aquifers (recharge)
 - Overflow of untreated sewage from storm events and system failures directly to surface waters
- Transfer of sewage solids ("biosolids") to land (e.g., soil amendment/fertilization)
 - "Straight-piping" from homes (untreated sewage discharged directly to surface waters)
 - Release from agriculture: spray drift from tree crops (e.g., antibiotics)
 - Dung from medicated domestic animals (e.g., feed) CAFOs (confined animal feeding operations)
- Direct release to open waters via washing/bathing/swimming
- 6 Discharge of regulated/controlled industrial manufacturing waste streams
 - Disposal/release from clandestine drug labs and illicit drug usage

- Release to open waters from aquaculture (medicated feed and resulting excreta)
 - Future potential for release from molecular pharming (production of therapeutics in crops)

· Leaching from defective (poorly engineered) landfills and cemeteries

- Release of drugs that serve double duty as pest control agents:
 examples: 4-aminopyridine, experimental multiple sclerosis drug → used as avicide;
 warfarin, anticoagulant → rat poison; azacholesterol, antilipidemics → avian/rodent reproductive inhibitors; certain antibiotics → used for orchard pathogens; acetaminophen,
 analgesic → brown tree snake control; caffeine, stimulant → coqui frog control
- 10 Ultimate environmental fate:
 - most PPCPs eventually transported from terrestrial domain to aqueous domain
 - phototransformation (both direct and indirect reactions via UV light)
 - physicochemical alteration, degradation, and ultimate mineralization
 - volatilization (mainly certain anesthetics, fragrances)

 Disposal to landfills via domestic refuse, medical wastes, and other hazardous wastes